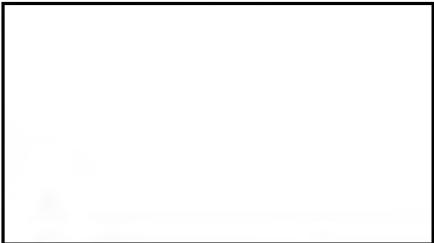


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DAILY BRIEF

USSR: The USSR's efforts to strengthen its anti-submarine warfare (ASW) capabilities are reflected by the construction of large modern submarine chasers of the new Petya class in European Russia and the far east.

One of these ships, which appeared to be in final stages of fitting out, was photographed at a shipyard at Khabarovsk on 24 September. These ships were first identified in June when two units moved from the Baltic, where they were apparently constructed, to the Northern Fleet.

The Petya is a gas turbine and diesel-propelled ship with a displacement of about 1,000 tons. It is believed fitted to carry a new type of anti-submarine homing torpedo, in addition to depth charges and ASW rocket launchers. <

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South Vietnam: (A new corruption scandal involving top officials may undercut Diem's efforts to rally popular support.)

(The secretary of the presidency, the chief of the presidential security service, and several cabinet ministers, among others, are involved in the sale of national lottery tickets at premium prices to favored buyers. Rumors of the scandal are circulating in Saigon, although nothing has appeared in the controlled press.)

Diem may be forced to oust some officials and possibly reshuffle the cabinet. The government's efforts to combat corruption at the local level have long suffered because of the popular belief that high officials are being protected.)

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France: (De Gaulle may have to campaign actively in the November National Assembly elections to assure the election of candidates favorable to the government. In the past, he has refused to do this.)

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(if De Gaulle campaigns in the 28 October referendum he may win 60-70 percent of the vote--despite the opposition of the entire French press.)

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in the November elections, however, De Gaulle must convince the public that he will resign if candidates who will support him are not elected.)

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(Gaullist deputies continue to express optimism, but leaders of the parties which brought Pompidou down see a good chance of reducing the 173-deputy Gaullist bloc to a hundred at most.)

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Venezuela: President Betancourt, under pressure from the military to halt the current wave of violence and to arrest key Communist leaders, is taking further action against leftist extremists.

After suspending constitutional guarantees on 7 October, the government seized two pro-Communist newspapers on 9 October and imposed general censorship. Some 150 extremists implicated in the terrorism reportedly have been arrested.

President Betancourt may be preparing to outlaw the Communist Party and its ally, the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR). The Social Christian partners in the government coalition reportedly would support such action. The armed forces have been alerted to expect violent extremist reaction.

Although the situation is serious, Betancourt still has the support of most military leaders, the labor unions, and probably the general public, according to the US Embassy in Caracas. Strong military pressure is likely to continue, however, until the administration moves against the Communist and MIR national deputies identified as leaders of the anti-government violence.

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